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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05
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R 031825Z MAR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6757
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP: PRDGRAM EVALUATION

1. GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MET FEBRUARY 23-24 WITH EXPERTS PRESENT FROM CAPITALS TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ADOPTED REPORT,TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS, ENTITLED QUOTE PROGRAMME EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND REVIEW UNQUOTE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL IN MAY:

2. BEGIN TEXT: A MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) WAS CONVENED IN GENEVA ON 23/24 FEBRUARY TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE PROBLEMS OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND REVIEW. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WERE REPRESENTED IN MOST INSTANCES BY EXPERTS IN THIS SUBJECT MATTER. THE MEETING AROSE FROM A DECISION OF THE GENEVA GROUP (CONSULTATIVE LEVEL) ON 6/7 OCTOBER 1977 AND THIS REPORT IS THEREFORE INTENDED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING AT THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL.
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3. PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING RECOGNIZED THAT THE SECRETARIATS, GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAVE A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVALUATING THEIR PROGRAMMES. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE AGENCIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE EVALUATION MECHANISMS.

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THEY WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE ACC (E/1978/12)
HAD EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTAINED IN THE JIU REPORT ON EVALUATION IN THE UN
SYSTEM (JIU/REP/77/1). THEY RECOMMENDED TO THE
CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF
GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS IN GOVERNING BODIES AND ON
OTHER APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS SHOULD SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE THE ADOPTION OR
STRENGTHENING BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF
EVALUATION SYSTEMS APPROPRIATE TO EACH ORGANIZATION
BASED ON THIS REPORT. THEY COMMENDED PARAGRAPHS
76-90 IN PARTICULAR OF JIU/REP/77/1, READ IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF M. BERTRAND'S
FORTHCOMING REPORT, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE
BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEETING, AS A USEFUL
GUIDE TO THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH SUCH INTERNAL
EVALUATION SYSTEMS SHOULD BE BASED. PARTICIPANTS ALSO
RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JIU AND OTHER BODIES IN
UNDERTAKING STUDIES AND EVALUATION OF METHODS AND
PROGRAMMES.

4. ANOTHER ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT WAS THE ADOPTION
BY THE JUNE 1977 (CPC (A32/38) OF A RECOMMENDATION ON
EVALUATION WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY
LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS. ATTENTION WAS ALSO DRAWN TO
THE ACC'S INTENTION TO PREPARE A CONSOLIDATED REPORT
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COMPRISING (A) AN OVERVIEW OF MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AND
OBJECTIVES, (B) A COMPENDIUM OF INTRODUCTIONS TO
THE MOST RECENT PROGRAMME BUDGETS, AND, IN ADDITION,
(C) A BROAD STATEMENT ON EXPENDITURES.

5. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO
REVIEW AGENCY PROGRAMMES REQUIRES STRENGTHENING IF
THEY ARE TO PROVIDE REASONABLE POLICY GUIDANCE TO
THE AGENCIES.

6. IN THIS REGARD PARTICIPANTS REACHED AGREEMENT
UPON THE DOCUMENTS TRANSMITTED BY THIS REPORT ENTITLED
BASIC APPROACH TO PROGRAMME REVIEW IN GENEVA GROUP
CAPITALS AND INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REVIEW AND ASSESS
MEDIUM TERM PLANS AND PROGRAMME BUDGET DOCUMENTS. THEY
RECOMMENDED TO THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING THAT
THE FIRST BE APPLIED BY GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS WHEN
REVIEWING THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGETS OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS. AS REGARDS THE SECOND, IT WAS POINTED
OUT THAT RESOLUTIONS ALREADY ADOPTED BY UN BODIES ON,
FOR EXAMPLE, THE PREPARATION OF THE UN MEDIUM TERM
PLAN (RESOLUTION 31/93) WERE ALSO RELEVANT. IN THIS

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CONNECTION, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS AGREED TO PRODUCE FOR THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING A PAPER CONTAINING A CATALOGUE AND SUMMARY OF THESE. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PAPER BY DRAWING THE ATTENTION OF THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATE TO APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS. THE ULTIMATE AIM SHOULD BE A CONSOLIDATED PAPER FOR USE BY LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS WHEN CONSIDERING THE FORM OF PRESENTATION OF FUTURE MEDIUM TERM PLANS AND PROGRAMME BUDGETS. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT IN THE

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PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMME BUDGETS. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY SOME PARTICIPANTS THAT GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PRIORITY SETTING ACTIVITIES. THEY MIGHT ALSO IF THEY SO WISHED, UNDERTAKE TREND ANALYSES OF AGENCY PROGRAMMES. THE LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS COULD BE USED AS MECHANISMS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PRIORITIES, AND FOR THE CIRCULATION AND, IF APPROPRIATE, REVIEW OF SUCH TREND ANALYSES.

7. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY SOME PARTICIPANTS THAT THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING MIGHT INVITE LOCAL GENEVA GROUPS TO CONSIDER IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES, OR POSSIBLE CASE STUDIES ON WHICH IT WAS FELT A COMPARATIVE REVIEW - PERHAPS IN SOME CASES CONDUCTED BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS - WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION BY GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS

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AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED. OTHER PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS ON THIS POINT. GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS COULD BE INVITED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN AREAS WHERE COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT IS
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POSSIBLE BETWEEN PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND SIMILAR PROJECTS RUN BY BILATERAL AID AGENCIES, BEARING IN MIND THE NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, A TYPE OF PROJECT SUCH AS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AT A GIVEN LEVEL FOR A GROUP OF COUNTRIES IN A GIVEN SUB-REGION COULD BE MADE THE SUBJECT OF A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THEIR COST/BENEFIT RELATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING MAY WISH TO URGE GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THE REPORTS OF SUCH EXERCISES.

8. INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REVIEW AND ASSESS MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AND PROGRAM BUDGET DOCUMENTS: (1) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, QUANTIFIABLE WHERE POSSIBLE, OF PROGRAMS AND SUBPROGRAMS; (2) AN INDICATION OF THE ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH EACH SUBPROGRAM OBJECTIVE WILL BE COMPLETED; (3) METHODS TO BE FOLLOWED IN ACHIEVING THE SUBPROGRAM OBJECTIVES. THESE SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN DETAIL IN THE SUBPROGRAM NARRATIVES; (4) NARRATIVES SHOULD CLEARLY DESCRIBE THOSE ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM REGULAR BUDGETARY FUNDS AS DISTINGUISHED FROM EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS; (5) LIST OF PROGRAMS, SUBPROGRAMS OR PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR WHICH WILL BE DISCONTINUED; (6) INDICATION OF PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES OF EACH SUBPROGRAM.

9. BASIC APPROACH TO PROGRAM REVIEW IN GENEVA GROUP CAPITALS: THE GROUP OF EXPERTS WAS OF THE OPINION THAT MORE EFFORT NEEDS TO BE MADE IN CAPITALS IN REVIEWING THE PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT GENEVA
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GROUP GOVERNMENTS SHOULD: (A) DETERMINE WHAT THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES ARE DOING PROGRAMMATICALLY; (B) DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT THESE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES REFLECT THE PRIORITIES OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS;

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(C) DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH PROGRAMS ARE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY MEETING THE STATED OBJECTIVES.

10. BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ASKED IN THE PROCESS OF THIS REVIEW INCLUDE: (A) WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, ITS CAUSES AND ITS SIZE? ARE ALL RELEVANT FACTORS IDENTIFIABLE? (B) TOWARD WHAT OBJECTIVES SHOULD PROGRAMS BE DIRECTED? (C) ARE THESE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES WELL DEFINED AND, WITH RESPECT TO ON-GDING PROGRAMS, ARE THE OBJECTIVES STILL VALID? (D) WHAT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED? (E) WHAT OTHER AGENCIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO MEET THIS OR SIMILAR PROBLEMS, AND IS THERE DUPLICATION OR OVERLAPPING? (F) HOW LONG HAS THE PROGRAM BEEN UNDERWAY? WHEN WAS IT LAST REVIEWED BY A POLICYMAKING ORGAN? WHEN IS IT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED? (G) WHAT EVALUATION CRITERIA ARE BUILT INTO THE PROGRAM, OR WHAT CRITERIA CAN BE APPLIED TO MEASURE RESULTS ACHIEVED? END TEXT.
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: AORG, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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